

Based on the International Scale of river difficulty the Hiwassee State Scenic River is primarily Class I (moving water with small waves, few obstructions) and Class II (easy rapids with wide, clear channels; some maneuvering required). Certain sections may be considered Class III (rapids with high waves capable of swamping an open canoe; requires complex maneuvering). The Hiwassee State Scenic River provides an exceptional setting for white water canoeing and rafting. It should be noted, however, that the most placid streams are potentially hazardous to those unskilled or unfamiliar with the basic principles of floating techniques and water safety. We are very much concerned about the safety and well-being of our visitors, yet, all the regulations in the world will not help if they are not heeded. We, therefore, ask that you consider the following when floating the Hiwassee River.

- Stay off the river if you are not a competent swimmer.
- Wear a lifejacket or other flotation device like the experts do.
- Keep your craft under control and watch out for the other guy.
- Know your canoeing ability and physical limitations. High water is dangerous. Do not attempt water you do not think you can handle.
- Stay alert and watch for obstacles.
- Dress to protect yourself from cold water and weather extremes and bring along extra clothes.
- Wear tennis shoes or other foot protection on the river to protect yourself from rocks, glass, or other sharp objects.
- Do not float the stream alone.
- Use equipment you have confidence in and can adequately handle.
- All craft should be in good repair and contain flotation devices or multiple air chambers (rafts).
- In the event of a thunderstorm, get off the river and seek shelter well up onto the bank.
- Be sure there is nothing in or on the craft that might entangle its occupants in the event of a spill.
- Craft should contain both bow and stern lines.
- Carry a first-aid kit.
- The Hiwassee River flows through public and private lands. Visitors should be considerate of the following:
  - Respect the right of landowners; always obtain permission to use private property for any purpose.
  - Carry all litter out with you; help us pick up after less considerate visitors and do not carry breakable styrofoam type coolers or glass containers on the river.
  - Do not dig, cut, or damage living plants.
  - Obey all hunting and fishing regulations.